



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips – Media Availability – October 4, 2018

(On leading the league in quarterback hurries, pressures, the four sacks the defense had in the fourth quarter against the Vikings and how important it is to have their production reflect the kind of pressure they're putting on the quarterback)

"Yes. You always want to get pressure on the quarterbacks, that's the number one thing. It helps your pass defense, obviously. I just thought pressure situations, I thought we played well defensively. I saw the league last week and almost everybody that had the ball at the last drive scored a touchdown or made plays. I thought playing under pressure is a really key thing when the game is on the line, those kinds of things. We did a good job of that. We still need to improve. We're working hard to do that. But, we do have some talented guys that can rush the passer."

(On the outside linebacker position and how the position has come along since training camp and if he's using the players a little bit differently than he has used outside linebackers before)

"You use different players differently, no matter what position they're playing. We try to do the things that they do well. It sounds simple, but if there's certain things guys do well then we try to let them do those things, and not do things they don't do well."

(On if LB Mark Barron is able to play on Sunday)

"Yes, that would be great if (LB) Mark (Barron) is able to play on Sunday. He's worked so hard to try to get back. He's practiced this week, which is a really good sign, and he's a really good player. We hope he gets back — I'm sorry I interrupted the question. When you said Mark Barron I said, 'Alright, let's go!' We hope he's there (laughs)."

(On if Barron will be eased back in or will he be full go if he plays against the Seahawks)

"I think you'll still have to watch him. He hadn't played any preseason or regular season games this year. But, he's in good shape. He's worked hard, so we'll just see where he is in the game. He could get tired. We're not going to play him an extended, every play certainly. But again, the things he does well, we're going to try to get him in there for those things."

(On what he saw from CB Sam Shields against the Vikings)

"(CB) Sam (Shields) had to play every play, which was different — he had a limited role the first couple of games. I thought his effort was tremendous. Sam, I think he could've gotten down a little bit mentally during the game, but he didn't. He kept fighting and I thought our whole team did the same thing."

(On Shields background and what he thinks it means to Shields to be able to playing after being sidelined for nearly two seasons)

"I'm pretty sure I know how he feels, too, but it's a great feeling that a kid or young man that's had the things that happened to him is able to play football again. I know how much he appreciates that, and we're really glad we have him."

(On DT Ndamukong Suh playing on the edge a couple times and being able to get sacks from there and what he likes about Suh's versatility)

"We thought it was good match-ups when we put him out there. He can play, obviously he can rush from inside or outside. Some of it's match-ups, some of it are schemes that we want to do and certain calls and so forth. We want to move those guys around. I mean we move (DT) Aaron (Donald) over the center, over

either guard and Ndamukong can go over either tackle, either guard or the center. He gives us some versatility. Their protections have to change, or we get one of those guys or two of those guys one-on-one. That's what we're looking for."

(On how familiar he was with Suh's versatility)

"Yeah, we knew that. We looked at all the plays – he played quite a few plays at defensive end at Miami. We were well aware of that, but we still had to work with him and make sure he could do those things we saw on film, but he did that."

(On what he has seen from S Lamarcus Joyner this season)

"Yeah, he hasn't had a lot of action. I mean, the one game we played – Arizona – he said, 'I just watched the game.' He was in the middle and nothing really happened. But, he's the same guy. He's an active player that we going to try to utilize him as much as we can on certain things. He's a safety net back there that can overlap almost any play. We played a three-deep zone and I know they threw a touchdown – we were supposed to have a guy in deep zone and he almost made the play against the Chargers. We were supposed to have somebody in that deep third, he was in the middle. He made the tackle and I'm sure everybody, Pro Football Focus said he gave up a touchdown or something, but he was actually playing the middle of the field. So, he can make plays."

(On if the versatility of this current defensive line is consistent with what he's had in the past)

"That's unique. It's not usual that you have guys, number one, have those kind of caliber players – three of them. But, they can pretty much play almost every position or at least can give you matchup situations that you don't normally have. Again, yeah, I've had some great players, but most times they played one position and obviously they played that position well. There's not many players that you can move around like our guys."

(On what DL John Franklin-Myers has shown him through training camp until now)

"Yeah, we've liked him all along. We've said all along he's doing better and better as he goes. He beat his man several times in the game. It wasn't the only time that he did. Obviously, that's a big time – quarterback still had the ball. He's a young player and we want to get him in the ball game with the things he does well and keep working on that. The thing he does well is rush the passer, so he's been in those situations and we're trying to hone in on that. Now, he did – he's rushed either side which is – he's not just tapped in to just rushing one side. He rushed on the left side quite a bit and then when he made the play at the end, he rushed on the right side. He's a good, young player and we hope he keeps improving."

(On what kind of challenge it is to defend Seahawks QB Russell Wilson and what specifically makes it difficult)

"Yeah, he's a tremendous player. All you have to do is watch the film and watch him play. He makes plays out of nothing. He makes plays that nobody else makes. He's fantastic. He's obviously an elite quarterback that can win a game. He can beat you himself. Not many quarterbacks can do that and he can also – he can beat you running with it or throwing it. He'll run for first downs to keep plays and then run around enough and find somebody open. You have to cover them for a long time, with him, and that makes it hard. He's been doing it since he's been in the league. So, I can't say enough good things about him. He's a great player. I think they've done a good job offensively. They've run the ball a lot better than they did last year. They've got three running backs who can really run with the football – that are strong runners and their running game is good. So, you've got a strong running game and a quarterback that makes you more dangerous. I think (Seahawks Offensive Line Coach) Mike Solari, the line coach, has done a really good job with their offensive line. They were talking before about how their offensive line was hurting, but now they block well and protect well. So, again, it's always a challenge, but it'll be a challenge up there. They've got good players and good coaches."